

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, JA

SUBJECT: ASP: EDWARD ALBEE

REF: A) TOKYO 12650; B) STATE 216622

1. FOLLOWING ARE TALKING POINTS ON ALBEE LECTURES:

A. "ALBEE ON ALBEE"

1. CREATIVE MIND AND HOW IT DIFFERS FROM ART TO ART.
2. HOW A PLAYWRIGHT THINKS.
3. THE PARALLELS BETWEEN PLAYWRIGHTING AND MUSICAL COMPO-
-- SITION.
4. HOW ALBEE WRITES A PLAY.
5. WHAT ALBEE IS ATTEMPTING IN RESPECT BOTH TO HIS ART AND
-- THE PUBLIC.

B. "THE INTELLECTUAL CLIMATE IN THE U.S."

1. SURVEY OF THEATER, LITERATURE, MUSIC, DANCE AND FILM
-- IN U.S. TODAY.
2. THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POSITION OF THE ARTIST.
3. THE INTENTION OF THE ARTIST VERSUS THE INTENTION OF THE

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-- AUDIENCE.

4. THE POWER OF THE CRITIC.

C. "THEATER AS A SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ACT"

1. BRIEF HISTORICAL SURVEY: SOPHOCLES, SHAKESPEARE, WILDE,
-- CHEKHOV, BRECHT, BRECKET
2. THE THEATER IN A CLOSED SOCIETY.
3. THE THEATER IN AN OPEN SOCIETY.
4. WHY THE FILM AND TELEVISION IN THE U.S. ARE NOT RPT
-- NOT POWERFUL SOCIAL FORCES.

2) WHEN ALBEE FIRST APPROACHED ON JAPAN VISIT, CU INDI-

CATED THAT FOR EVERY 4 WORKING PROGRAM DAYS HE WOULD HAVE 3 FREE DAYS. AS PROGRAM SCHEDULE NOW SET UP, HOWEVER, (REFTEL A), THERE ARE 12 1/2 WORKING DAYS AND ONLY 6 1/2 FREE DAYS (OCTOBER 31 NOT INCLUDED IN CALCULATION SINCE IT DEPARTURE DATE). ALBEE VERY ANXIOUS TO AVOID RECURRENCE OF PROBLEM IN EARLIER DEPARTMENT-SPONSORED TRIP TO USSR WHERE, THOUGH INITIALLY PROMISED FREE TIME, HE WAS OBLIGED BY OVERLY ENTHUSIASTIC AUDIENCES, WITH APPARENT EMBASSY BLESSING, TO "WORK 12 HOURS A DAY, EVENTUALLY ENDING UP IN A LENINGRAD HOSPITAL SUFFERING FROM EXHAUSTION". STRONGLY RECOMMEND THEREFORE THAT POST RESCHEDULE PROGRAM CUTTING DOWN WORKING DAYS WHERE POSSIBLE TO ALLOW FOR 4-TO-3 RATIO AS DESCRIBED ABOVE. (ALBEE DOES UNDERSTAND UNAVOIDABILITY OF SOME IN-COUNTRY TRAVEL ON FREE DAYS, BUT HOPES THIS CAN BE KEPT TO ABSOLUTE MINIMUM.) PLS ADVISE SOONEST.

3) ALTHOUGH ETA, FLIGHT DATA NOT YET AVAILABLE, ALBEE EXPECTS ARRIVE TOKYO MONDAY, OCTOBER 6. MR. JONATHAN THOMAS WILL ACCOMPANY. REQUESTS REASONABLY PRICED DOUBLE ACCOMODATIONS THROUGHOUT TRIP. WHILE IN TOKYO (BEGINNING 10/6 AND WHENEVER HE IS SCHEDULED FOR PROGRAMMING THERE), HE WISHES STAY MAIN BUILDING OF IMPERIAL HOTEL. ALBEE'S FRIEND, DR. BRUCE WEBSTER, PERSONALLY KNOWS MANAGER HAYAKAWA IN CASE INFLUENTIAL REFERENCE NECESSARY.

4) FOR TRADITIONAL ART VIEWING (REFTEL B), SUGGEST VISIT UNCLASSIFIED

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TO HOUSE OF JAPANESE AND CHINESE ANTIQUE ART DEALER DAVID KIDD OF NISHINOMIYA BE INCLUDED WHILE ALBEE IN KANSAI. KISSINGER

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